

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----020900Z 033444 /15

R 020844Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8720
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09312

EXDIS

FOR LAKE

DEPART: PASS TO SECDEF WASHDC, USNMR SHAPE, AND CINC
EUR VAIHINGEN

MILITARY ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: POSITIONS OF GENSCHER AND SCHMIDT

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONOFF PLANNING STAFF DIRECTOR KINKEL, A CONFIDANT OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, HAS GIVEN VISITING S/P MEMBER KAPLAN A BACKGROUND AND STATUS OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S EARLIER CALLS FOR PROGRESS AND HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON MBFR. DURING MAY 31 TOUR D' HORIZON ON FRG POLICIES, KINKEL VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING ON MBFR. END SUMMARY.

1. KINKEL RECALLED SCHMIDT STATEMENTS ON MBFR DURING
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AND SHORTLY AFTER LAST YEAR'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN, STATING THAT CHANCELLOR WAS RESPONDING TO PRESSURE FROM SPD LEFT OF CENTER, INCLUDING BRANDT, EHMKE AND PAWELECZYK, WHO FAVORED SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS. IN IMMEDIATE POST-ELECTION PERIOD, SCHMIDT WAS READY TO ENTERTAIN SYMBOLIC REDUCTION CONCEPT, IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE SPD LEFT AND TO GIVE SENSE OF ENHANCED MOVEMENT IN FRG OSTPOLITIK.

BUT KINKEL SAID THE CHANCELLOR HAS NO "PLANS" OR "PROPOSAL" OF HIS OWN.

2. KINKEL, WHO WAS NEGOTIATOR OF GOVERNMENT POLICY A AGREEMENT FOR FDP, SAID GENSCHER MADE MAJOR ISSUE OF MBFR DURING COALITION NEGOTIATIONS. GENSCHER WAS IN AGREEMENT ON TWO MAJOR POINTS WHICH WERE INCORPORATED IN COALITION AGREEMENT: (A) NO NATIONAL CEILINGS; AND (B) NO SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS. (AGREEMENT ALSO STIPULATED THAT FRG WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR PARITY RESULT.

3. KINKEL NOTED THAT SINCE COALITION TALKS ENDED IN DECEMBER, SCHMIDT PERSONALLY HAS MADE NO NEW APPEALS FOR MBFR PROGRESS NOR HIGHLIGHTED POTENTIAL OF FRG/SOVIET SUMMIT AS FORUM FOR MBFR BREAKTHROUGH. (EMBASSY COMMENT: KINKEL HAD OBVIOUSLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT SCHMIDT'S APRIL 30 "HAMBURGER MORGENPOST" INTERVIEW IN WHICH SCHMIDT AGAIN SPOKE OF THE FRG TAKING INITIATIVES IN VIENNA. IN A MARCH 30 PRESS CONFERENCE THE CHANCELLOR INDICATED THE FRG WAS WORKING ON ITS OWN PROPOSALS TO OVERCOME THE STALEMATE IN MBFR. SCHMIDT INDICATED FURTHER ON MARCH 30 THAT HE WANTED TO TALK TO BREZHNEV AND CARTER ABOUT THE SUBSTANTIVE SHAPE OF MBFR. SEE BONN 07904 AND 06097. END COMMENT). CHANCELLOR HAS PERMITTED BRANDT AND OTHER SPD OFFICIALS TO SPEAK THEIR MIND BUT HAS NOT ENDORSED THEIR POSITIONS.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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4. KINKEL SAID HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING GENSCHER THIS MONTH TO MOSCOW FOR PREPARATION OF LATE AUTUMN BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN. KINKEL SAID LITTLE WAS NOW EXPECTED OF BREZHNEV VISIT, ON MBFR OR ON OTHER TOPICS. GENSCHER HAS MADE THIS CLEAR IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH EHMKE LAST WEEK.

5. KINKEL SAID GENSCHER HAD NO OBJECTION TO "LIGHT MOVEMENT" IN MBFR PENDING SALT TWO AGREEMENT BUT BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHANCELLOR ANTICIPATED NO REAL MBFR PROGRESS BEFORE SALT CONCLUDED. WHILE SKEPTICAL OVER POTENTIAL FOR SUCH MOVEMENT IN DATA AREA, GENSCHER WAS PREPARED TO MAKE EFFORT IF FRAMEWORK WAS NOT PREJUDICIAL TO COALITION AGREEMENT ON NATIONAL CEILING ISSUE. GENSCHER WAS GRATIFIED BY SECRETARY'S POSITION ON DATA ISSUE IN LONDON.

6. KINKEL PREDICTED FLATLY -- BOTH IN THIS TALK AND IN PRIOR DISCUSSIONS ON MARGINS OF APAG MEETING IN ISTANBUL -- THAT SPD/FDP COALITION WOULD NOT SURVIVE

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DURATION OF GOVERNMENT PERIOD. HE SAID COALITION WOULD NOT END BECAUSE OF EROSION OF POSITION IN LAENDER ELECTIONS BUT DUE TO SPD/FDP DISAGREEMENT IN PARTICULAR ISSUE. ACCORDING TO KINKEL, GENSCHER HAD GIVEN SCHMIDT TO UNDERSTAND THAT MBFR COULD BE SUCH AN ISSUE IF CHANCELLOR SUPPORTED BRANDT ON SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS OR WEAKENED ON NATIONAL CEILING ISSUE.

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